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Listing of the Claims

Please amend claims 12 and 15 as follows.

Please cancel claims 1-8 and 10-11.

1. - 11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim # 13, wherein said latch means further comprises a drive plate operably connected to said at least two locking tabs such that said at least two locking tabs are drivable by said drive plate to shift said latch means between a latching and an unlatching condition.

13. (previously presented) A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers, comprising:

a body member constructed of a top wall, a bottom wall, a front wall and two sidewalls forming a back opening for loading or unloading wafers into or out of said body member;

a cover member for sealingly and removably engaging said back opening of the body member; and

latch means carried on said cover member for latching said cover member onto said body member, said latch means being actuatable and operable linearly from a latched condition in which

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said cover member is latched onto said body member to a released condition allowing removal of said cover member from said body member when engaged linearly by a latch key of a door opener situated in a loadport onto which said pod is positioned, said latch means further comprises at least two spring-loaded locking tabs for engaging receptacles provided in said body member and for returning said at least two spring-loaded locking tabs to a disengaged position.

14. (previously presented) A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 13, wherein said at least two locking tabs being operated in a linear manner when engaging or disengaging said receptacles.

15. (currently amended) A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 13, wherein said latch means further comprises two latch holes for linearly engaging said latch key of the door opener in said loadport through a drive plate.

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16. (previously presented) A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 15, wherein each one of said two latch holes operates at least one locking tab for engaging one of two opposite sides of a loadport opening.

17. (previously presented) A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 15, wherein said two latch holes move in a linear manner to linearly engage at least two locking tabs of said latch means to an opening of said loadport.